

REMARKS

Claims 32-37, 39-41, 44 and 47-49 are presented for consideration, with Claims 32, 33, 44 and 47 being independent.

Claim 32 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art. In addition, Claims 47-49 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Claims 38, 45 and 46 have been cancelled.

The following remarks address the issues raised in the Office Action of December 29, 2005. In that regard, Claims 32-41 and 44-46 stand rejected on obviousness-type double patenting grounds as allegedly being obvious over Claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,839,054 (Abe). In addition, Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to the double patenting rejection, Claim 32 has been amended to include, in addition to a plurality of display devices and a driving circuit configured to apply a modulated signal to each of a plurality of modulated signal wirings, the drive circuit having a plurality of charge paths connected to each of the modulated signal wirings. The plurality of charge paths are connected in parallel to each of the plurality of modulating signal wirings, and the number of charge paths that are driven is changed in a time period for applying one modulated signal to the one display device.

Support for the amendments to Claim 32 can be found, for example, in Figures 23 and 24 and the accompanying specification on page 59, line 18, *et. seq.*

It is submitted that at least the amended features in Claim 32 render Applicants' invention patentably distinct from the claims in the Abe '054 patent. Additionally, Claims 33 and 44 include elements patentably distinct from the claims in Abe '054, as well.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), Claim 45 has been cancelled. It is noted, however, that paragraph 5 of the Office Action discusses Amano with respect to Claims 32 (pending) and 42 (cancelled). As discussed above, Claim 32 has been amended to recite that the driving circuit has a plurality of charge paths connected to each of the plurality of modulated signal wirings, with the plurality of charge paths being connected in parallel to each of the plurality of modulated signal wirings. Additionally, the number of charge paths that are driven is changed in a time period for applying one modulated signal to the one display device.

In Amano, the video display system includes a flat panel having an X and Y matrix. The row lines X and column lines Y are driven to adjust the brightness of the video display by changing the combination of a width and an amplitude of a driving pulse. Amano fails, however, to teach or suggest, among other features, providing a plurality of charge paths connected in parallel to each of a plurality of modulated signal wirings, with the number of

charge paths that are driven being changed in a time period for applying one modulated signal to one display device.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 32, 33 and 44 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 34-37 and 39-41 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 47-49 are also submitted to be patentable.

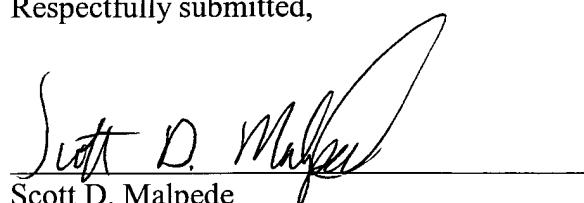
Claim 47 relates to an image display apparatus comprised of a plurality of display devices wired in a matrix through a plurality of scanning signal wirings and a plurality of modulated signal wirings, and a driving circuit configured to apply a pulse signal as a modulated signal having a modulated pulsewidth to each of the plurality of modulated signal wirings. At least one pulse signal has a first portion having a signal level to be lower than a maximum level of the pulse signal at the leading edge of the pulse signal, and a second portion has a signal level to be lower than the maximum level of the trailing edge of the pulse signal.

Support for the new claims can be found, for example, in Figure 38 and the accompanying specification on page 81, line 12, *et. seq.*

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott D. Malpede
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM\mm

DC_MAIN 235522v1